

memorandum

date December 9, 2010

to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

from Bruce Mackey, ESA Adolfson

subject South Fork Retention Structure

At the Flood Authority meeting on November 18, 2010, Dave Muller presented a summary of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Retention Structures Feasibility Study Phase IIB report. One of the conclusions that he presented was, "A single or multi-purpose structure on the South Fork does not appear to be cost-effective." (Slide 9 of the presentation Dave Muller distributed at the meeting on the November 18).

Given this finding, it has been suggested that the Fish Study, currently underway, might be altered to concentrate more efforts on the main stem of the Chehalis.

I contacted Paul Schlenger of Anchor QEA and discussed the issue with him. He indicated that concentrating on the main stem would cause some incremental changes to the study.

Anchor has completed approximately half of the data collection on the South Fork, and he suggested completing that effort in order to have the base data. However, he suggested not doing the analysis of these data in the PHABSIM model. Excluding the South Fork could also remove one reach (out of seven) from the SHIRAZ modeling. These changes would save approximately \$25,000.

His recommendation was to keep the savings as a contingency fund. He noted that their current budget was tight for the SHIRAZ modeling and water quality data analysis. He also wanted to make sure they had the resources to spend adequate time on the data transfer workshop as that is critical to ensure others can use the data and models in the future.

Given the legislative deadline for finishing the Fish Study by June 30, 2011 and the state budget situation, I would recommend that the Flood Authority ask Anchor QEA to:

1. Continue collecting data on the South Fork; but
2. Remove the South Fork from consideration in the PHABSIM and SHIRAZ modeling efforts in order to establish a contingency fund.